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## Washington Sentinel.

BY BEVERLEY TUCKER.

EDITED BY WM. M. OVERTON AND CH. MAURICE SMITH

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

# DECEMBER 11, 1853.

MR. GEORGE E. FRENCH, Bookseller, King street, Alexandria, is our authorized agent to re-ceive advertisements and subscriptions. Single can be procured at his counter every MR. E. K. LUNDY, bookseller, Bridge stree

Georgetown, will act as agent for the Senti ecceiving subscriptions and advertisements. GEORGE W. MEARSON is our authorized

agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements, in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

As soon as we can, we will publish the communications now on hand. But we wish it distinctly understood that we must not be less specifically endorsed by us.

We regret that we cannot present our readers, at this time, and for several days to come, with our usual amount and variety of editorial matter - with extracts from other papers, and with general news items. We spare no pains to make our paper acceptable gossip up to the grave statesman. But seasons occur, and the opening of Congress is such. when messages, reports of secretaries and statistical tables have to be spread before the country. When we shall have completed the publication of these documents, we hope to present to our readers our usual style and variety of matter. Till then they must bear

## REPORT OF THE SECRETRY OF THE

This important document was published in our issue of yesterday, and will command very great attention. It will elicit from the press generally, as well as from Congress, discussion, and demands mature consideration.

It is written with clearness, and in the style of a man of business. It is unambitious, and is free from argumentation upon the subjects it recommends. It contains many interesting details, and is full of recommendations deeply concerning the financial and commercial policy of the country. Of these we cannot now speak at large, reserving for future occasions a more extended comment. Indeed, it is now impossible, with the pressure of executive documents upon our columns, to do more than commend their perusal to our readers.

A striking fact presents itself in the opening of the report. According to the estimate of the late secretary, the receipts from customs for the year ending June 30, 1853, would only have been \$49,000,000; while the actual receipts from that source, have been \$58,931,865 52, or nearly \$10,000,000 advance in the reality over the estimate. On the other hand, while the estimated expenditure for the same year was \$60,560,056 86, the actual expenditures were only \$54,026,818 21-or over \$6,000,000 less in the reality than the estimate. Thus, taking the two results together, the condition was anticipated by the head of that department under the late administration. This fact is a York, now in session in this city. striking commentary upon the prophecies of

In respect to the public debt, a gratifying decrease in its amount has resulted from the redemption of it from the overflowing resources of the treasury. The amount discharged during the year ending June 30, 1853, is \$10,482,555 39-reducing the total public deht, by subsequent payment and redemption, up to December 3, 1853, to \$56,336,157 52.

The actual receipts from customs for the first quarter of the present fiscal year is \$19.718.822, and the estimated receipts for the remaining three quarters are \$37,000,000making, from customs for the present year, nearly \$58,000,000.

These figures point to a rapid extinction of the public debt, and the liberation of the business of the country from all taxation, save what may be needed for an economical administration of the government.

The Secretary explains how far the injurious effects of an accumulated surplus have been sought to be remedied by means of advances to the mints of a portion of it, for the purchase of bullion, without which the coinage of the bullion would not have been issued to meet the demands of business in the country for weeks. The purchase, also, of United State stocks, even at the premium at which they were held, has proved efficient in relieving the plethora of the treasury, the tightness of the money market in the cities, and has avoided the evils of an enormous surplus, by discharging the public liabilities.

The recommendations for a revision of the tariff policy of 1846, to meet the change in our financial and commercial condition, will command the attention and excite the scrutiny of all parties. A recommendation to increase the list of free articles, to reduce the duties on all other articles to the two rates of 100 per cent. and 25 per cent., and to change the duty on iron from the ad valorem duty, to one based upon the average ad valorem duty for the last three or four years-these are important changes, which we must reserve for future con- give at present a more extended notice, but will sideration and discussion. At present, without seeing the tables (1) containing the free list, or (H) containing those articles upon which is to be imposed the 25 per cent. duty, or (K,) containing those taxed 100 per cent., we re-

frain from any further comment at present. It appears that our tonnage has greatly increased, and (though the figures are not presented in the report) that the imports and exports (as was well known) show a vast angmentation over past years.

The history of the operations of the sub-trea surv, under the construction which the secretary has given to the law, is fully set out; and numerous recommendations respecting the internal organization of the department are made and commended to congressional action.

These matters we cannot dwell on, but con clude by recommending this first treasury report of the new administration to the consideration of our readers.

### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF

The report of Hon. R. McClelland, Sec retary of the Interior, will be found in our columns to-day. It evinces ability, industry, and intimate acquaintance with the varied duties of the department over which he presides. His recommendations command, in the main, our cordial concurrence. Indeed, we are not prepared to say that we dissent from any of them. With some of the subjects in reference to which he makes suggestions, we are not sufficiently familiar to express intelligent and well digested opinions.

We commend to the special attention of our readers those portions of his report which refer to the land system, and the beneficial results that the country has realized from it-to the subject of pensions, to our Indian affairs, and to the public buildings.

We agree with the Secretary that adequate appropriations should be promptly made for the erection of suitable fire-proof buildings for held responsible for any communications, un- the State, War, Navy, and Interior Departments. Such buildings are needed to secure the safety of the public records and papers, and for the dispatch of business.

There is a decision and a directness in the recommendations of the Secretary that we like to see. What he thinks, he says, and says precisely and in plain terms. Circumlocution. timidity, and non-committalism, should never to all classes of readers-from the harmless be found in the papers of our public functionaries. They show, wherever they occur, entire

unfitness and incompetency for public position. The reader will find in Mr. McClelland's report much interesting matter. His facts and statistics are properly exhibited, his statements clear, and his suggestions excellent: In one word, his report is very able.

#### SETTLEMENT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH SUIT.

We are pleased to learn, from the following publication, that the controversy which has been ong pending between the two divisions of the Methodist church, has been satisfactorily adjusted. If we are not mistaken, a very decided prinion was delivered by the judge before whom. the suit was tried, in which the parties were urged very strongly to arrange their differences before a final decree should be pronounced.

"The undersigned, a committee appointed for the purpose of preparing a statement for publication of the action of the commissioners upon the question in litigation between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church south, in relation to the property of the book concern in New York, re-

port the following:
"The Hon. John McLean having voluntarily undertaken a correspondence with the commis-sioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church and those of the Methodist Episcopal Church south, and having received assurances from both par-ties of a disposition to come to an amicable settlement of the matter in litigation, and having been invited to be present at a meeting of the aforesaid commissioners and to aid them with his counsels, met with them at the mission room, 189 Mulberry street, New York, on the 20th ultimo, and, by the unanimous request of the commissioners, acted as chairman. "After a careful and most friendly examina-

tion of the whole question, the southern commissioners made a proposition for a settlement of their claim, which the commissioners of the New York concern accepted. Nothing now remains to consummate this desirable adjust ment of a most troublesome litigation but the of the Treasury is \$16,000,000 better off than execution of the necessary papers, and the arrangements of the final decree of the United States Court for the southern district of New

"The settlement has been agreed the opponents of the tariff of 1846, and demon- the parties without the arbitrament of a third strates that commercial freedom is entirely conconclusion of this settlement was followed by sistent with the financial prosperity of the thanksgiving to God, and the most hearty exns of Christian love and mutual cont dence. The feeling which prevails among the commissioners of the two churches, we may hope, is a true type of that which will prevail after through at the bonds of our common methodism, north and south.

"Much credit is to be awarded to his honor Judge McLean, for his agency in the completion of this important and desirable arrangement and we doubt not but this act will stand nently among those of his long and brilliant career, which have given him so enviable a position before the Christian public.

"The details of the settlement will be made known to the public when the final decree of the court shall transpire.

GEORGE PECK. "WILLIAM A. SMITH. "The above report was unanimously adopted.

#### Z. PHILIPS, Secretary." NATIONAL THEATRE.

The performances at the National on Friday vening, on the occasion of Monsieur Marzetti's benefit, were capital. The theatre was unusually well filled. The bills for the evening were good, and ample justice was done to them by the various performers. The dancing was admirable, and elicited unbounded applause. Boquets were thrown to the favorite dancers. On the inimitable Russian danseuse, Md'lle Yrca Mathias, boquets were literally showered. In grace, power, and brilliancy, she is surpassed by few.

Then came Marzetti, in the character of Jocko, the ape, which he personated to the life. In shape, motion, agility, mischievous propensity-indeed, in everything - he was the ape itself.

### OUR BOOK TABLE.

Notices of Books, - We have received from Messrs. Gray & Ballantyne, on 7th street, above Odd Fellows' Hall, the following excellent works Volumes 1 and 2 of Hypatia, or New Foes with an Old Face, from the house of Crosby, Nichols, & Co., Boston ; Sculpture and Sculptors ; Memoi of Pierre Toussaint; and Eliot's Lectures to Young Men, all from the same source. Owing to the crowded state of our columns, we are unable to

hereafter do the donors justice. Also, from Joe Shiilington, the Knickerbocker, for December, which number closes its forty-sec ond volume.

QUICK WIT .- One of the readiest replies we have heard lately was made by an Irish la-

A gentleman traveling on horseback "down came upon an Irishman who was fencing in a most barren and desolate piece of land. What are you fencing in that lot for, Pat?" said he. "A herd of cows would starve to

death on that land." "And sure, your honor, wasn't I fencing it to keep the poor bastes out iv it?"

The Rev. Wm. H. Millburn, the present oplain of the House of Representatives, was

An actress in Paris the other day, refu to perform a part, because the costume allowed her did not cover her person sufficiently. The court ruled her objection

### Bublic Document.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, December 5, 1853. Six: From the accompanying report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, it will be seen that the surveys of the public lands have been steadily prosecuted, and large bodies of new lands, during the past year, brought into market; that the wants of the emigrant have been fully met and choice selections officed to the hardy

The land system is founded in correct principles, and needs but little modification or change. The pre-emption feature might possibly be advan-tageously enlarged and made more liberal. Sound policy requires that every encouragement should be held out for actual settlement and cultivation. Nothing retards the growth and prosperity of the country more, nor inflicts greater injury upon the resident, than the possession, by individuals or companies, of extensive uncultivated tracts of the public lands. To correct this evil, facilities should be liberally extended to the actual settler, and

withheld from the mere speculator.

During the last fiscal year 9,819,411 acres have been surveyed, and 10,363,891 acres brought into market. In the same period there were—

Showing an increase in quantity sold and located with land warrants, and under grants, of 12,231,818

acres over the previous fiscal year.

The quantity of land sold during the second and third quarters of 1852, was 334,451 acres; amount received therefor, \$623,687 59.

Quantity sold second and third quarters of 1853, 609,919 acres; amount received therefor, \$2,

The whole number of land warrants issued, under existing laws, up to the 30th September last, was 266,042 of which there were then outstanding 66,947. The quantity of land required to satisfy 

Making a total of ..... 25,384,640 There have been issued, under the act of 31st

There have been issued, under the act of 31st August, 1852, for the satisfaction of Virginia land warrants, 1.657 pieces of land scrip, embracing 229,669 acres. It is supposed the scrip yet to be issued under this act will require 870,000 acres. It may be several years before the land warrants and scrip will be exhausted, and until then the

The entire area of the public domain is esti-mated at about 1,584,000,000 acres. That within the States (exclusive of California) is 471,892,439 Its purchase was effected at the rate of 14.41 cents per acre, \$67,999,700

reservations, which enter into the original cost, amounting to 3,400,725 acres, which, valued at \$1 25 per acre, would make.... Up to the 30th June, 1853, 334,256,-

810 acres had been sold, at an expense of 2.07 cents per acre, additional expense for selling, at 5.32 cents per acre, making.... The entire cost (including survey

and selling) being.... The whole amount accruing from sales up to 30th June, 1853, was

Being \$53,289,465 more than the cost of the whole thus far, inclusive of survey and sale. Of the surveyed lands there have been gran

For educational purposes..... 11,199,973 acres
For military bounties....... 24,841,980 "
And for internal improvements. 16,607.013 "

(after deducting the expense of surveying and selling)..... Making..... To which add the net profits re-53,289,465 ceived for land actually sold.

And we find that, while the purchase, survey, and sale of the public lands will, in the end, have cost 888,994,013, the net amount which will have been realized therefor is the enor-

331 181 369

instead of being a loser, as many have supposed by its connexion with the public lands, has found them not only a source of revenue, but a ready means of promoting the cause of general educa-tion, and of bestowing well-earned rewards for nilitary service.
In the Territories and new States, where many

of the public lands remain for a long period un-sold, liberal grants should be made for those great highways which, to a certain extent, may be considered local in their character, though gen-eral in their influence, and not conflicting with the interests of the old States. In this way, with out any expenditure of money, the general government can greatly increase the value of the publi domain. It has never made such a donation with-out being fully repaid. The principle of granting alternate sections, and selling those reserved at double the ordinary price, has been found, by ex-perience to be most salutary. By reason of the mprovements made with such grants, large tracts of land that had long lain waste have been brought into market, and found a ready sale; the surroundinto market, and found a ready sale; the surrounding country has been peopled; the revenue has been augmented by the increased consumption of foreign merchandise; and the State in which the improvements have been thus made, and not unfrequently the adjacent States, have been largely benefited. Without these donations and consequent improvements, some of the finest portions of the new States would have continued a wilderness, lands that had been for fixen or treature. derness; lands that had been for fitteen or twenty years in the market might have remained as much longer unsold, and thus the prosperity and advancement of the whole country greatly retarded. The loss to the government would have been serious, without any corresponding benefit. The true policy is, to bring the lands into market, and by all legitimate means, dispose of them as speedily as possible; justice to those who have been induced to settle in the new States and Territories, and the interests of the government, alike demand it. The strongest political and economical considerations, therefore, dictate this course.

On the 20th September, 1850, a grant of lands was made to the States of Illinois, Mississippi, and Alabama, to aid in the construction of the great Central railroad, from Chicago to Mobile. To afford these State. Central railroad, from Chicago to Mobile. To his ford these States an opportunity of making their selections, the lands along the proposed route of the road were, for a short period, withdrawn from market, most of them being of little value to the States in which they were, or to the general go-

States in which they were, or to the general government, until the grants were made, and it was ascertained that the road would be constructed; but then they were bought up with avidity, and are now considered as most choice and valuable.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company was incorporated, and the route of the road; and its branches, within that State, designated by an act of the legislature, in February, 1851. During the half year ending 31st December, 1850, the quantity of land sold and located with bounty land warrants, in the district traversed by the road, was 312,487,88 acres. The alternate sections reserved to the United States were released from reservato the United States were released from reservation and brought into market in July, August, and September, 1852, and during that and the next succeeding quarter the sales and locations amounted to 1,274,522.28 acres; showing an increase over the corresponding half year next preceding the location of the road, of 952,034.40 acres.

The unselected lands in the Augusta and Countries of the corresponding the location of the road, of 952,034.40 acres.

cation of the road, of 932,034.40 acres.

The unselected lands in the Augusta and Columbus districts, in the State of Mississippi, were restored to market in the month of September last; and notwithstanding the sales in those districts had for many years been very limited, the lands thus restored met with ready sales, at enhanced prices. The quantity sold at Augusta in the month of September, 1819, was only 424 acres; and in the same month in the vears 1850, 1851, and 1852 much tember, 1819, was only 424 acres; and in the same month in the years 1850, 1851, and 1852, much less,; and yet in five days in September last, after the route of the road had been established, and the alternate sections designated by the State, 19,530 acres were sold for \$34,046, being \$9,643 more than their aggregate value at the minimum price. In the Columbus district, in the short space of 12

days, in the month of September last, 22,504 acres were disposed of; whereas, in all the month of September, 1849, the quantity sold was only 2,358

Since the present commissioner took charge of

The lands withdrawn from market in June, 1852, to enable the State of Missouri to locate the routes and select the lands granted to her, by the act ap-proved the 10th of that month for the construction 30th of September following, 318,889 acres were sold being nearly 150,000 acres more than were sold in the corresponding quarters in 1850, 1851, and 1852 combined.

of the alternate sections reserved to the United States wherever similar grants have been made. Previous to the grant for the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie canal, the sales of lands in the Lake Superior region were not large, amounting, in the second and third quarters of 1852, to only 40,659 acres; whereas, during the correspondin quarters in 1853, after the canal was commenced the sales increased to 89,073 acres—and this whe the work is in progress of construction. Doubtless the increase will be far greater when the canal is completed.

There can be as little doubt of the constitution.

There can be as little doubt of the constitutionality of such grants as of their propriety. The right to donate a part for the enhancement of the value of the residue can no longer be justly questioned. The principle has been adopted and acted upon for nearly thirty years; and since experience has shown it to be productive of so much good, no sound reason is perceived why it should now be abandoned. It has been of incalculable importance to the great west, and, either directly or indirectly, to all the States.

As many projects have been, and many others

o all the States.

As many projects have been, and many others probably will be, presented to Congress by intercreted parties, it may be difficult, practically, to discriminate between those that are worthy and Making a total of...... 25,346,992 those that are not. Congress will have all the facts in each case before it, and, in its wisdom, will decide as in similar cases of legislation. By making every grant specific, and throwing proper guards, restrictions, and limitations around it. the object to be attained may be secured, and plans and com-

Something is manifestly due to the hardy pioneer, without whose labor, industry, and enter-orise the west would now be of little moment. No one who has not been an eye-witness can ap-preciate the hardships and privations endured by him, and government should certainly not hesitate to aid him, especially when it can be done without detriment to the other States, or to any other in-

tance of extending the present land system over the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, with such modifications as the peculiar features of the country require.

The report of the Commissioner of the General
Land Office contains some recommendations on

Land Office contains some recommendations on this subject, which are commended to your con-The disposition of the mineral lands in California has widely engaged public attention. The various projects heretofore suggested, some of which experience has tested, are open to many

objections. To guard against their becoming a dangerous source of speculation and monopoly seems the most important point of consideration. The vast results already realized from unrestricted individual industry and enterprise have been so manifest, that whether any further restriction than that above indicated, with the addition of confining

the work of the mines to our own citizens, and those who may declare their intention to become such, requires mature deliberation.

The commission to ascertain and settle the pri-vate land claims in the State of California expires by limitation on the 4th of March next. From reliable information, I have no doubt many cases ot great importance will have remained unde-cided; the public interests, therefore, require that the law creating the commission be so amended as to fulfil the object for which it was enacted.

as to fulfil the object for which it was enacted.

Officers connected with the sale and survey of the public lands are frequently purchasers, and, owing to their facilities of dealing unfairly with bona fide applicants, often excite grave and perhaps well-founded suspicious.

They can now with impunity commit many acts which should be discountenanced. To prevent such mischief they should be prohibited, under severe penalties, from purchasing or being interested in the purchase of the public lands.

The business of the Pension Office has been conducted with great promptness, energy, and ability. In none of its branches is it now in arrear, everything having been brought up to the rear, everything having been brought up to the

The labor performed within the last six mo The labor performed within the last six months has been very great, and the number of cases daily disposed of is for more than usual.

The act of 3d February, 1853, extended the benefits of the pension laws to the widows of officers and soldiers of the revolutionary army who were married subsequent to January, in the year 1800. It was supposed there were but few cases that could properly come within its provisions, and the estimate, and the appropriation based thereon, for the present fiscal year to meet its requirements was only \$24,000, which has prove total inadequate, the deficiency being upwards of \$200,000. The number examined, admitted, and placed upon the pension list to the first 1st Octe-ber, 1853, was 1,115, and it is now estimated that

it will reach 3,000, and require an annual appro-priation of \$240,000. The widows of the officers, non-commission fficers, marines, and mariners who served in the navy during the same period, are not embraced by the act; but why such discrimination should be made cannot be well conceived,

Numerous frauds have been committed under the numerous trades have been committed under the pension laws. In perpetrating them, perjury and lorgery have been frequently resorted to. Several prosecutions have been successfully instituted; the criminals have been convicted, and are now expiating their offences. Some, whose guilt was piating their offences. Some, whose guilt was palpable, have escaped in consequence of the act of Congress limiting prosecutions of this character to two years from the commission of the offence. These offences are committed in secret. Every expedient is adopted to avoid detection; and it is seldom that, with the greatest vigilance, they are discovered within the time limited by law for their prosecution. A change is therefore earnestly recommended; and if any limit is fixed, of which the propriety is doubted, it should be much extended.

From recent examinations, it has been discov ed that invalid pensions have been obtained by persons who do not come within the provisions of the laws; and many, since the issue of the pen-sion certificates, have been found without any disability whatever. To prevent this, in future, and to detect such impositions, the Commissioner of Pensions recommends the enactment of a law similar to that of 1819, requiring an immediate exsimilar to that of 1919, requiring an immediate ex-amination of the invalid pensioners, and a bien-nial examination thereafter, by two approved sur-geons. In this I most heartily concur, believing that it would afford an effective remedy against the abuse of the laws, and save to the governmen large sums fraudulently obtained from the trea

The laws relating to pensions have become numerous and complicated, so many various and conflicting constructions have been given to them, and they are involved in so much doubt and un-certainty, that a revision and codification seem necessary. If judiciously and carefully executed, it would conduce greatly to the dispatch of business, relieve by its simplicity the applicants and beneficiaries from large expenses and gross impositions, and prove very advantageous to the government. It might involve some labor, and yet but little ex-

Some of the most important questions that arise in this branch of business are those relating to the commencement and arrears of pensions. Hence the necessity, in draughting pension laws or amendments, of using language that cannot be readily supported by the control of the cont readily misunderstood.

The time when the pension is to co should be fixed with positive certainty, and arrears of pension explicitly allowed or disallowed. To secure a more direct and frequent accounts bility of the agents for paying pensions, and to enable the Commissioner to prepare proper estimates and requisitions, he has introduced a system which will enable him, at any time, to show the condition of each agency; prevent overdrawing, and an unnecessary accumulation of money in the hands of any agent. To make it more efficient, the agents should be required by law to make quarterly returns to, and settle their accounts with that office.

The Commissioner of Patents, who com The Commissioner of Patents, who communicates directly to Congress, will, at an early day, report the operations of his bureau. By his indefatigable and unremitting exertions, system has been restored, and the business of his office is now conducted with much order and regularity.

The number of applications is constantly increasing, and the force, though augmented by the act of 1853, is still insufficient to bring up the old, and dispatch with promptitude the new, business. As the public is so deeply interested in the speedy examinations of the applications for patents, and the fund for this purpose is so ample, every facil-

examinations of the applications for patents, and the fund for this purpose is so ample, every facil-ity for dispatch should be afforded. No complaint is heard against the integrity, skill, or competency of those discharging the important duties of the bureau; but the delays incident to

Since the present commissioner took charge of the bureau the number of applications examined and patents issued have greatly increased. Still, from four to six mouths, and in many cases a longer period, unavoidably clapses, after the ap-plication is presented, before final action can be obtained. This is a severe trial to the patience of the inventor, and often a serious loss to him, as well as the public.

equires the models and specin unpatented inventions to be preserved and arranged in suitable cases. Some of these are useful, as well to the inventors desirous of ascertaining whether their inventions have been anticipated, as to the examiners in the discharge of their duties. But there are many that are wholly worthless and unfit for any purpose. In some instances they represent contrivances altogether unpatentable; in others, they are merely duplicates of models previously deposited. Where application is made for a patent for a design merely, the practice, under existing laws, has been to allow the applicant to deposite, as his model, a specimen of the article on which his design has been placed, in its full size. Accordingly, a vast number of stoves and other cumbersome articles have accumulated to such an extent as to render it impossible to comply with the law requiring them to be arranged in cases.

As space is of so much value and importance to this bureau, these defects in the law should be remedied, and a more enlarged discretion given to the commissioner, there being no danger of its

Appeals from the decision of the commissioner may be taken to the chief justice, or either of the assistant judges, of the circuit court of the District of Columbia. It is optional with the applicant to of Columbia. It is optional with the applicant to which of them he will take his appeal, and the adverse party cannot have it decided by any of the others, although the judge to whom the appeal was made may be unable, from absence, age, or other inferrite to be unable.

made may be unable, from absence, age, or other infirmity, to hear the case.

The object of the appellant may be delay to enable him to infringe, with impunity, upon the rights of the appellee; and the law, as it now stands, affords him this opportunity. As such cases have occurred, and may again arise, the evil should be remedied.

During the past year the Indians have been more pacific than was expected; few outbreaks have occurred, and the depredations committed by those in the new Territories, and along the routes to Oregon and California, have been comparatively small. small.

By kind, humane, and just treatment, their c

dition may be improved, and the hostile feelings so often manifested by them, and so frequently enof public officers, may be subdued. If they cannot be conciliated, soothed, and civilized in this way, they surely will not be by coercion, oppression, and injustice.

Their attention should be diverted from a wild,

predatory life, and, if possible, directed to agricul-ural pursuits. To give the Indian stability of

character—make him an independent, responsible, moral being—should be the study of those who are intrusted with his guardianship.

The time is rapidly approaching when this must be the fixed policy of the government, since their roaming disposition cannot be gratified or tolerated much longer. Their territorial limits are daily becoming more circumscribed, and unless they learn the arts of husbandry, their condition, in a few short years, will be destitute and degraded, and their utter extermination must soon follo

their utter extermination must soon follow.

Their number within the limits of the United States is estimated at 400,000, of whom about 18,000 are east of the Mississippi river—principally in New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Florida. About 110,000 are in Minnesota, and along our inner frontier to Texas; those of the plains and Rocky mountains are estimated at 63,000, and those in Texas at 29,000; California at 100,000; Washington and Oregon at 23,000; New Mexico at 45,000, and Utah at 12,000—a formidable number of savages to control and properly direct.

By the act of March 3, 1853, fifty thousand dollars were appropriated to enable the President to

lars were appropriated to enable the President to enter into negotiations with the Indian tribes west of the States of Missouri and Iowa, for the purpose of securing their assent to the settlement of the citizens of the United States upon the lands claimed by them, and for the purpose of extin-guishing their titles, in whole or in part, to these lands. This duty was committed to the Commis-sioner of Indian Affairs, who undertook it at the

sioner of Indian Affairs, who undertook it at the earliest practicable period, and has made every effort to discharge it faithfully, and to accomplish the object for which the appropriation was made.

His journey through the section of country in question, and his interviews with the Indians, cannot fail to be of great value to him in the future discharge of his duties.

It is believed that his presence made a most favorable impression, and that the results of his visit will prove beneficial to them and to the government. Little doubt is ontertained that early in the season, and in time for Congress to act upon the subjects connected with this Territory, and to consummate the design of the appropriation, treaties will be made with the Indians, and such gratify the people. No effort will be spared to ac-complish the object, as the bureau and the depart-ment fully appreciate its value and importance. Some of the Creek Indians were indicted in the ederal court in Arkansas for introducing or vending spirituous liquors in the Indian country. The marshal of the western district of that State arrestwere rescued from his custody. Many of the In-dians have banded together, and are determined to resist the execution of the writs, on the ground that by their own laws the same Indians have been already tried and punished, and that is unjust, and them upon trial a second time for the same of-fence. The excitement and exasperation of the Indians were so great and alarming that the super-intendent of Indian Affairs for that district appealed intendent of Indian Affairs for that district appealed to the officer, and requested him to suspend proceedings until he could consult and advise with this department. This has been done, and after declaring that it had neither the legal authority nor the disposition to interfere with the action of the judicial tribunals, nor to prevent the service or execution of any writ which had been lawfully issued the department execution. ssued, the department suggested to the marshal and the district attorney having charge of the inand the district attorney having charge of the in-dictments, the propriety of co-operating, as far as was compatible with their sense of duty, with the superintendent and other Indian agents, in their efforts to calm the troubles which existed, and to

estore quiet and contentment among the disaf-The laws of most of the Indian tribes are severe upon this subject, and enforced and executed with great rigor. It would, therefore, be far better to to permit them to control it, than to introduce a conflict of jurisdiction, which might lead to dis-

strous consequences.

Although it is doubted whether the federal courts

nave cognizance of such offences when committee by Indians, yet Congress should interpose and sieve the question from all doubt. The issue of warrants to Indians under the bounty land laws has been suspended, and unless Congress expressly authorizes it, they will hereafter be disallowed. It is questionable whether the

Indians engaged in the service of the government in any of our wars severed, or intended to sever, in any of our wars severed, or intended to sever, their connexion with the tribes to which they betheir connexion with the tribes to which they be-longed. So long as they continue members of a tribe, their individual appears to be merged in their tribal character; and whatever is due from the government for their service belongs to the tribe. They are, moreover, in a state of pupilage; the government is their guardian, and bound to protect them against the superior intelligence and sagacity of the white man. Although many war-sants were issued new ions to the superior believe sagacity of the white man. Although many warrants were issued previous to the question being
brought to my notice, it may be safely assumed
that, with the exception of a few of the Stockbridges, scarcely a solitary entry has been made
by an Indian under the scrip, or warrant, issued
to him. There is no positive proof of the fact,
but it is the belief of those who have diligently
inquired into it, that wherever scrip or warrants
have been issued to individual Indians, they have
been defrauded of them. If they are entitled to
any such gratuity, sound morality, as well as
justice to them, requires that some legal and different provision be made.

It was estimated that there were approach of

It was estimated that there were upwards It was estimated that there were upwards of seven thousand Indians whose military service might entitle them to bounty lands. Supposing their claims to average eigthy acres each, the aggregate amount would exceed 560,000 acres.

The effort to remove the remnant of the Seminole Indians from Florida, through the instrumentality of a special scent proved showther perticipants.

note indians from Florida, through the instrumenality of a special agent, proved abortive, notwithstanding it is alleged that some \$50,000 were expended in the attempt. As it was supposed a military force would be necessary to effect their removal, the duty was transferred to the War Department. I concur with the Commissioner of Indian

I concur with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the recommendation that the Indians be colonized in suitable locations, of limited extent, and distant from white settlements. In connection with it, a system of education, commensurate with their position and wants, should be introduced and efficiently prosecuted.

The agents in Texas are desirous of providing release for the Indiana in the State Many

ant suitable places for the Indians in that State. Many to of the Indians themselves are anxious for the adop-

The plan for removing the Indians in California to five military reservations of not more than twenty-five thousand acres each, and subsisting them there, having been approved, instructions for them there, having been approved, instructions for carrying it into effect were promptly given to the superintendent of Indian affairs for that State. His success has not been such as was expected; difficulties presented themselves which were not anticipated. It apppears that suitable locations cannot be made in the northern part of California for the Indians in that region. Sufficient territory for the purpose, belonging to the general government, cannot be found; and in order to accomplish the object designed, it will be necessary to make extensive purchases of lands from private individuals, at great expense. It is also questionable whether, before the reservations are permanently made, the State should not grant to the general government the right to exercise jurisdiction over them. If the plan adopted is to be pursued, it should be enlarged, greater powers given for its execution, and more ample means provided for its successful operation.

It is a subject which deserves the prompt attention and speedy action of Congress.

Immediately after taking charge of this department, I caused instructions to be issued to the superintendent and agents of the Indians have just claims of the Indians have just claims of groups the annuities to them per capita, unless contrary to treaty stipulations, and in no case to pay any the annuities to them per capita, unless contrary to other claimants or attorneys. Experience has taught the wisdom of this measure; and I am persuaded it has prevented much fraud and unfair dealing. If continued, it will tend to banish that feeling of asperity so often exhibited by the Indian have just claims against the government, it is the duty of the Indian Bursau, and those under its control, to examine into them, and, when ascertained, to press their speedy adjustment. Congress will do them justice when the facts are properly brought to their notice and consideration.

The system of cash annuity payments, except to a few of the semi-civilized or colonized tribes, should, as far as practicable

The system of cash annuity payments, excep to a few of the semi-civilized or colonized tribes, should, as far as practicable, be abolished. Goods, provisions, implements of husbandry, should be substituted, and education and the arts of civilization more generally encorraged. They know not, especially the hunter tribes, the proper use or value of money. The mere drawing together of large bodies of men, women, and children, to receive their annuities, is detrimental to their habits, health, and morals, and the money may be viewed as an actual bonus for their destruction.

ceive their annuities, is detrimental to their habits, health, and morals, and the money may be viewed as an actual bonus for their destruction.

One of the most prominent characteristics of the Indian, especially in the hunter state, is improvidence; a surfeit to-day is followed by a famine tomorrow: hence, notwithstanding the vast amount of goods and money annually distributed among them, they are often reduced to the greatest extremity, and, it is feared, sometimes actually perish for want of food and clothing. The quantity furnished is believed to be ample, but the mode of distribution fails to accomplish the object intended. To obviate the difficulty and remedy this great evil, it has been suggested that, with the assent of the Indians, store-houses might be established at suitable points in their midst, from which the agents of the government could distribute goods and provisions equivalent to the amount stipulated in the treaties, in quantities and to individuals as needed, with such arms and ammunition as might be judicious. There is much force in the suggestion, and the cost of the experiment would be trifling. The comfort and preservation of the Intion, and the cost of the experiment would be trifling. The comfort and preservation of the Indian require that a different method from that heretofore pursued should be adopted. The only obstacle in the way of immediately testing the plan proposed is the existing treaties, and the difficulty of obtaining the consent of the Indians, so long as they are influenced by those having an adverse in-

It is folly to attempt to conceal the fact that It is folly to attempt to conceal the fact that under the present system the Indian has not, for many years past, advanced in morality, integrity, or intelligence. The pictures drawn, in many of the reports, of his exaltel condition, superior intelligence, and increasing knowledge, have been too highly colored. Much of the philanthropy and charity manifested for them has been wrongly directed. Their condition is truly deplorable.

In the act for the organization of the Territory of Washington no provision was made for the appointment of Indian agents to reside therein. I advert to the fact, to the end that the omission may be supplied.

may be supplied. may be supplied.

The operations of the Census Office have been conformed to the provisions of the joint resolution of the last session of Congress. The present Superintendent has exhibited a most commendable spirit; entering upon the discharge of his duties with a laudable zeal, in which he has been emulated by most of the clerks, and by their combined industry, skill, and intelligence, the work has been nearly concluded; and there yet remains unexpended of the last appropriation for census purpended of the last appropriation for census poses upwards of sixteen thousand dollars.

The census volume, it is now hoped, will be completed so that copies may be laid on the ta-bles of the members on the assembling of Con-gress. The superintendent proposes to make a further report, which, I have no doubt, will con-

Nothing further has been done with that part of the Mexican boundary survey which is west of the (so-termed) initial point on the Rio Grande. The appropriation did not apply to it, nor was any por-tion of it intended to be so expended. The question of the southern boundary of New Mexico having become a subject of negotiation between the two governments, has been transferred to the State of

red to the State Department. The work, in the field, on the undisputed por-tion of the boundary, has been completed, and no-thing remains to be done but the office work. Much progress has been made in this, and with an

Much progress has been made in this, and with an adequate appropriation it can be finished in the course of the next eighteen months, if the data necessary to compare and reduce the observations for longitude, made by the surveyor and his assistants, can be obtained.

The maps, after they are completed, are to be compared with the Mexican maps, and signed by the commissioner and surveyor. As the Mexican commission has progressed less rapidly, and it is uncertain when its work will be finished, our commission should not expire before the maps are commission should not expire before the maps are fully completed and signed, agreeably to the stipulations of the treaty. The act of 1853 should be modified accordingly.

It is understood that an agreement was er It is understood that an agreement was entered into between the former commissioner (Mr. Bartlett) and the Mexican commissioner, by which the joint commission was to meet on the first day of April next, in the city of Mexico. The department does not know the object of this arrangement, but presumes it was to perfect the survey. As the city of Mexico is far remote from the boundary itself, and posseses few or none of the facilities for prosecuting or expediting the work, even if the Mexican commission could be prepared, it would cause great delây, and cost our government a large and useless expenditure of money. The surveyor, however, was not present, nor did ment a large and useless expenditure of money. The surveyor, however, was not present, nor did he approve the agreement. Had he done so, it would still have been without authority, as our commission was by law to expire on the first day of January, 1853. Even under the present law, the proposed meeting cannot take place on the 1st day of April, 1854, inasmuch as our commission expires by law on that very day. expires by law on that very day.

There yet remains unpaid a number of debts of the last commission on this survey, which are of a most pressing character, and should be paid. The amount required to liquidate them cannot at present be ascertained. When the necessary information is received, an appropriation will be asked for

Great credit is due to the present comand surveyor, and the employees under them. They have acted harmoniously, and discharged their duties faithfully. By their zeal, energy, and endurance, they have accomplished in some seven months what it was supposed would require a much longer time, and have also kept within the limit of the appropriation.

I have inspected the progress of the maps and drawings of the survey, and, being satisfied that their publication will impart valuable information and illustrate the physical geography of an extensive region of country now little known, I recommend that Congress make provision for the commencement of the engravings for the work, under the supervision of this department.

the supervision of this department.

Under the appropriation of \$30,000, the construction of a bridge across the Potomac, at the Little Falls, was placed under the management and supervision of an officer of the corps of topographical engineers. The plan of an iron suspension truss-bridge was adopted as the most suitable for the locality and the permanent wants of the public. Two spans of one hundred and sixty feet each, with stone piers, will be completed, so as to permit the passage of vehicles early the coming winter.

winter.

The engineer recommends that this structure be extended across to the main shore, in the District, in order to make the whole permanent, and estimates the additional amount required at \$75,000. This is more than it was supposed the work would cost; but the extraordinary rise of labor and materials, and the unexpected difficulties that

submit to it. Although the agents have selected locations, they cannot be fixed without the consent of, and a cession by that State, with which arrangements should be made as soon as practicable.

The plan for removing the Indians in California to five military reservations of not more than twenty-five thousand acres each, and subsisting

besides the desks, paper-cases, and ordinary furniture, into a single room, where more than two clerks cannot conveniently be accommodated. In consequence of this, and the want of proper ventilation, the health of the clerks is impaired, and their shifty to labor much diminished. The files and papers have increased so rapidly that, for want of space, many cases of valuable papers are placed in the passages, where there is not that security from fire which is requisite.

The Pension Office is in a better situation, but it occupies inconvenient and uncomfortable quarters belonging to the War Department.

The Indian and Land Bureaus must be removed, and the only question appears to be, whether the west wing of the Patent Office building shall be fitted up for the temporary accommodation of these bureaus, or they be placed in rented buildings, not fire-proof, thus exposing to imminent peril papers of immense value to the general government, the States, and private individuals.

This building may be so finished within a year; and, until a suitable structure can be erected for this department, it will not be required by the Patent Office. Some opposition has been made heretofore to a somewhat similar proposition; but this, it is presumed, was based on the erroneous supposition that the cost of the entire structure had been defeated out of the patent find.

this department, it will not be required by the Patent Office. Some opposition has been made heretofore to a somewhat similar proposition; but this, it is presumed, was based on the erroneous supposition that the cost of the entire structure had been defrayed out of the patent fund.

The amount thus far expended and appropriated is \$1,307,750; of which \$1,048,750 has been paid out of the treasury, and only \$319,000 out of the patent fund. Such being the fact, there is no reason why a portion of it should not be temporarily used, as proposed, until needed by the Patent Office. If this should even somewhat incommode that office, it would be of small moment in comparison with the evils that might result from withholding the use of it from the bureaus. Skilful artisans are of opinion that the necessary improvements can be easily made without interfering withor injuring the original design. Unless, therefore, Congress, by express enactment, otherwise determines, I intend to direct the completion of the west wing so as to accommodate these bureaus and secure the public archives.

Within a few years the Patent Office will need the main building and the two wings for its exclusive use. In the mean time a structure should be erected for this department; and as it consumes much time to complete such a building, sound policy should induce its immediate commencement. One sufficiently large and commodious, and entirely separated from the other departments, can be constructed in a plain, substantial manner for \$250,000, and in the most approved style, with all the modern improvements, for less than half a million. Surely, at this time, there can be no more proper or profitable application of the public money. The considerations urging it are strong and apparent, and, it seems to me, cannot fail to convince every one who reflects upon the subject of its absolute necessity.

Applications are made at almost every session of Congress for repairing the bridges crossing the Potomac from Washington city. Although in the aggregate a

required, and ought to be erected. In the end it will prove a saving to the government, and in the meantime conduce greatly to its interests and the benefits of all who are in any wise connected with

this District.

The plan adopted for improving and ornamenting the public grounds should be vigorously prosecuted. It will conduce to the health, as well as greatly add to the beauty of the city.

These, and other improvements that might be suggested, are required. They are not merely for the use and benefit of the people of the District, the use and benefit of the people of the District, but minister to the pleasure, comfort, and health of every one who visits it. This is the metropo lis of the Union, and the pride and ambition of its representatives should induce them to make it worthy of a great nation. In regard to all such objects a liberal policy should be pursued; at least, all improvements should be made which the public service imperatively demands.

The supervisory power possessed by this de-partment over the accounts of the marshals, clerks, and other officers of the courts of the United States should be transferred to and be exsame character of the powers already intrusted to nim, and seems appropriately to appertain to his

office.

The commissions of officers connected with this epartment are issued by the State and Treasury Departments. The laws should be so modified as o authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make out and seal the commissions, to be signed by the President, of all officers under the control of this lepartment. It is proper in itself, would be far more convenient, and obviate delays necessarily neident to the issuing of such commissions by the

other departments.

In an act of Congress approved 31st August, 1852, provision was made to enable the Secretary of the Interior, under the direction of the President, to purchase a site in the neighborhood of Washington for the erection, furnishing, and fitting up of an asylum for the insane of the District of Columbia, and of the army and navy of the United States. The site was purchased, and the plan of the building adopted prior to my taking charge of the department. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable mechanics and materials, the work has not progressed rapidly. It is hoped, however, that the building will be completed and prepared for the reception of patients by the 1st of August next. Thus far the work has been well and faithfully executed.

Accompanying this report is a general exhibit of the estimates of the appropriations required for the Accompanying this report is a general exhibit of the estimates of the appropriations required for the service of this department for the next fiscal year.

I would respectfully suggest the expediency of a revision of the salaries of the judges of the district courts of the United States, which are now unequal, and in some cases wholly inadequate to the amount and importance of the duties to be performed, and the professional knowledge and ability required.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant.

bedient servant.
R. McCLELLAND, Secretar

CHAS. H. LANE has now the honor of informing his numerous friends and patrons, in and out of Congress, that his stock is large and complete in every department, embracing all articles usually kept in a first-class furnishing establish-

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sellor at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, and Nota Public, Mackinac, Michigan. All business entrusted with him will be done with care and dispatch. Business of the Up-per Peninsula will receive prompt attention. Oct. 14—tf.